

6 March 2025

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 23188

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 15 January 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing our response.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in [Requesting information from the Welsh Government](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet.

I have set out my response to your complaint at Annex 1 of this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Annex 1

You asked for a review of your request for recorded information as you believe that an exemption has been wrongly applied. Having reviewed the information and the exemptions that were applied I partly uphold your complaint.

Section 28 – Relations with the United Kingdom

The exemption states:

28(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between any administration in the United Kingdom and any other such administration.

Upon review of the information in scope of your request, I have concluded that Section 28 was correctly applied, and your complaint is not upheld.

Within the original disclosure, it stated *“I believe the public interest in this process is satisfied by information falling within the scope of this request already in the public domain, or which will be placed in the public domain at an appropriate time”*.

This reference was intended to refer to anticipated ad hoc First Minister references to the contacts in question. However, following a review of the information I have concluded that this argument was incorrectly applied. The information is not in the public domain in any systematic discoverable way, nor is there any indication at that it will be in the future. Consequently, your complaint has been partly upheld. However, in my view the arguments in respect of the application of Section 28 for withholding the information are still valid despite this finding.